

REMARKS

The allowance/allowability of claims 9-46 and 55-61 is noted, with appreciation. Claims 47-54 stand rejected. This Amendment leaves only allowable claims, as follows.

Allowable claim 55 has been canceled, and its limitations have been added to parent claim 47. Thus, claim 47 is now allowable. The dependency of claim 56 has been changed accordingly (it now depends from claim 47, instead of from canceled claim 55).

The preamble of each of claims 9-23 and 56-61 has been changed from "A two-piece impeller" to "An impeller" to avoid any inference that the impeller is made of no more than two pieces. "Two-piece" had been used merely as a shorthand expression. It is clear from the *open* "comprising" language in the claims that an impeller according to the invention having "an upper portion ... and a separate lower hub extension" could include additional pieces.

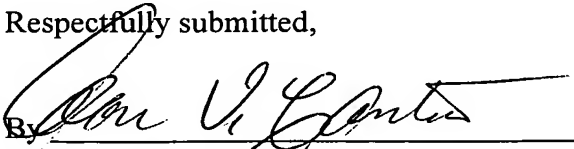
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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